

Michigan Commission of Agriculture Meeting Minutes

January 2000

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE MEETING MINUTES
(Held in conjunction with the 115th Annual Michigan Association of Fairs
and Exhibitions (MAFE) Convention)
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bugatti Royal Room
18900 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn, Michigan
January 13-14, 2000**

PRESENT:

Deanna Stamp, Chair, Commission of Agriculture
James Maitland, Vice-Chair, Commission of Agriculture
Shirley Skogman, Commission of Agriculture
Dan Wyant, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

Absent:

Jordan Tatter, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture
Douglas Darling, Commission of Agriculture

OTHERS PRESENT *(all or part of the meeting)*

Michigan Department of Agriculture Staff
Ron Zellar, Attorney General's Office
Wanda Bergdahl, MAFE
Terry Bonnell, MAFE
Gary Lee Brandt, Carrot Growers of Michigan
E. J. Brown, MAFE
Bill Burns, MAFE
Jim Fuerstenau, Michigan Farm Bureau
Sally Griffis, MAFE
Jay and Lu Hall, Midland, Michigan
Grant Larsen, Upper Peninsula State Fair
Wayne Loose, MAFE
Dr. Larry Olsen, Michigan State University
Janet Perry, Croswell, Michigan
Ron Wenger, MAFE
Donna Wilkins, MAFE

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stamp called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., on January 13, 2000. Chair Stamp called the roll with Director Wyant and all Commissioners present, except for Commissioners Tatter and Darling.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 13-14, 2000, AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

<

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 10, 1999, COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEXT MEETING

Director Wyant explained that the TB Conference scheduled for February 8-9, 2000, has been rescheduled to be held in March during MSU Agriculture and Natural Resources Week.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONERS' PER DIEM/TRAVEL:

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER STAMP'S PER DIEM AND TRAVEL ON OCTOBER 27, 1999, DECEMBER 8, 1999, AND JANUARY 5, 2000, TO ATTEND THE DNR DEER BAITING AND FEEDING WORKGROUP MEETINGS. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR'S OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

MOTION:

COMMISSION SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE DIRECTOR WYANT'S TRAVEL ON JANUARY 25, 2000, TO ATTEND THE MIATCO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, AND THE MARCH 3-6, 2000, NASDA MID-YEAR MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

WELCOME

Bill Burns, president of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE), welcomed the Commission to its 115th Annual Convention. Mr. Burns also introduced the MAFE 1999 officers: E. J. Brown, Donna Wilkins, Ron Wenger, Sally Griffis, Wayne Loose, Terry Bonnell, and past president Carol Britten.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner James Maitland said the weather in the Traverse City area has been very mild. Discussions held with apple and cherry growers indicate that supplies are moving, but not as well as hoped. Growers are optimistic that next year will be a good year. Commissioner Maitland informed the Commission that the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers Show will be held January 25-26, 2000, at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Commissioner Shirley Skogman said the weather in the Upper Peninsula also has been mild. She reported that the potato market has been very flat. Many people stored up potatoes because of Y2K and now they are trying to move the inventory. The seed market is very quiet, with few inquiries. Major companies are holding contracts until spring, causing concern and frustration for producers.

She asked if Commissioners would be attending the Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Seminar scheduled for February 15, 2000, in Lansing, Michigan. Director Wyant encouraged Commissioners to attend if possible. He said that Governor Engler will be speaking at the luncheon. Director Wyant also said he would cover some of the issues that will be addressed at this seminar during his Director's Report.

Commissioner Deanna Stamp discussed the USDA dairy options pilot program, an educational and cost sharing program for dairy farmers. Under the program, USDA covers part of the cost of dairy farmers using the futures and options market. USDA covers part of the cost of those options, as well as part of the marketing or service fees of making those trades. Michigan did not have any counties invited to participate in the program during the first year; however, this year three Michigan counties have been invited to participate (Sanilac, Clinton and Allegan). Commissioner Stamp encouraged farmers in those counties to take advantage of the one-day training session that is offered and to take advantage of the program.

Commissioner Stamp also reported that dairy prices are down slightly from December projections.

David Charney submitted the following written comments from **Commissioner Jordan Tatter**:

Commissioner Tatter reported that early January temperatures were 75 degrees warmer than last year. No winter fruit bud injury to date and the water reserve in soil and drainage systems is recovering from the extreme low levels at the end of the growing season.

The departmental employee award program and the following holiday season celebration were very well done and employee participation was excellent. It was both fun and meaningful to be involved in the events as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Tatter attended another Act 51 Transportation Funding Study committee meeting. The initial study draft is under review and may be finalized at the January committee meeting and the committee will disband. Agriculture concerns are well covered in the report.

He took part in the Michigan Frozen Food Packers Association Christmas party, where approximately 100 employees, spouses and guests of the member companies attended the annual event.

He also participated in a strategic planning group for the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center of Michigan State University. The center is now 10 years old. The Berrien County MSU Extension office has recently moved into a new building on the 300+ acre facility and, with the leadership of a professional facilitator, this is the first effort at formal strategic planning. The process will be completed with another two-day session in February. Growers, agribusiness and MSU staff are all involved in the planning group.

Commissioner Tatter attended the quarterly meeting of the Van Buren County MSU Extension Service Council, as a representative of agri-business.

At year-end blueberry and grape producers exhibited the most positive attitudes about their year's efforts. Tree fruit, vegetable and cash row crop producers were not so positive. However, local peach growers received make-up payments for the calculation error in federal crop insurance payments from the January 1999 freeze, due in part to Dale Sherwin's hard work explaining the problem to Michigan legislators in Washington, D.C. and USDA officials.

Commissioner Tatter noted that Y2K was uneventful in their cold storage business in Michigan and Indiana. While they had many thousand horsepower of electric motors running and about 200,000,000 pounds of refrigerated and frozen foods under their care, there was not a single problem in their system.

UPDATE ON THE GAAMP REVIEW PROCESS SUBCOMMITTEE: Commissioner James Maitland

Commissioner James Maitland reported that he and Vicki Pontz-Teachout, director of the Environmental Stewardship Division, have been working on the GAAMP review process. Commissioner Tatter also has been asked to participate in the review process.

Marv Johansen of the Environmental Stewardship Division, reviewed a January 4, 2000, memo from Vicki Pontz-Teachout regarding the *"Site Selection & Odor Control GAAMPs Process."* The following calendar outlines the process for development and adoption of these GAAMPs during the next six Commission meetings:

- *January 13-14, 2000: Status report on the development process.*
- *February 8-9, 2000: Dr. Maynard Hogberg will update the Commission on the status of the task force work to develop the GAAMPs.*
- *March 8-9, 2000: Dr. Hogberg will update the Commission on the status of the task force work to develop the GAAMPs.*
- *April 12, 2000: Dr. Hogberg will make recommendations to the Commission regarding GAAMPs for Site Selection and Odor Control at new and expanding livestock facilities. Draft GAAMPs will be made available for public input. MDA will receive additional input at a public hearing. (Now scheduled for May*

2, 2000.)

- *May 10, 2000: All public comments received to date will be presented to the Commission. Additional public comments will be received at the May 10 Commission meeting. The public comment period will end and all input and feedback will be forwarded to Dr. Hogberg for task force consideration.*
- *June 1, 2000: The Commission will review, revise as necessary, and adopt GAAMPs for Site Selection and Odor Control at new and expanding livestock facilities. MDA staff will print copies of the newly adopted GAAMPs and make them available for distribution.*

Director Wyant asked if representation from townships and counties would be included on the task force. He stated that once the task force has been established, the list of members would be shared with the Commission.

Commissioner Maitland said that the schedule takes into account the legislation that was passed stating that approval must occur by June 1. He proposed that the June Commission meeting be rescheduled to May 31 and June 1, 2000. Director Wyant and Commissioners Stamp and Skogman agreed.

Commissioner Maitland also distributed copies of the draft "*Annual Review Process for Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs)*." He said the recommendation of the subcommittee would be that every GAAMP have at least one meeting per year, even if changes are not anticipated. He also said that this draft review process for GAAMPs is a work in progress and is not a final document.

Director Wyant suggested that once the proposed review process is in a presentation form it should be shared with the townships and counties.

Commissioner Maitland agreed that communication needs to occur on an ongoing basis during the process.

Director Wyant distributed copies of a Michigan Townships Association memo regarding SB 205.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

No public comment was received during today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PESTICIDE UTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL: Dr. Larry Olsen, Michigan State University

Dr. Larry Olsen of Michigan State University reviewed the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control. Dr. Olsen distributed a memo regarding the "*Right to Farm Pesticide GAAMPs*." He explained that there were very minor changes made and those changes are reflected in the November 1999 draft as submitted.

Commissioner Maitland suggested that a cover letter accompany GAAMPs and be presented to the Commission for approval to outline the process that the GAAMP has undergone.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PESTICIDE UTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL WITH THE CHANGES AS SUBMITTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dan Wyant

Media Tours: Director Wyant met with the Detroit Free Press Editorial Board to discuss Senate Bill 205. A discussion was also held about the future of Michigan agriculture and policies that affect agriculture. He said many on the board were unaware of and desired information about technology used on the farm. Director Wyant felt a media tour would be very beneficial. Therefore, a media tour was arranged specifically to view agriculture technology and how it is used on the farm.

Visits were made to The Little Orchard Company, Bay City, a hydroponic tomato producer; The Stoneman

Farm, Breckenridge, one of Michigan's largest livestock operations, which is equipped with under-the-floor lagoons and the latest technology on computer-driven feed schedules; Shady Lawn Farms, Elsie, where they use Global Positioning System-equipped combine and other agricultural equipment, and the Green Meadows Dairy Farm, Elsie, one of the largest dairy parlors in Michigan. This facility uses state-of-the art technology and computer chip-in-the collar feeding technology. Animal fertility and herd health work is also computer monitored.

Director Wyant said the tours were so informative that MDA will schedule similar visits on an annual basis.

Legislative Priorities: Director Wyant believes that even though it was a tough year for agriculture, many important issues were addressed. Those issues include bovine tuberculosis, Right to Farm, Senate Bill 205, funding for exporting, Project GREEN, animal initiatives and value-added activities. The Governor and the Senate are supportive of tax reform in use value assessment, a statewide purchase of development rights program, economic development, value-added opportunities for agriculture and food processing companies, and establishing an export advisory committee.

Director Wyant said two priorities for MDA are Right to Farm and bovine tuberculosis. He said that MDA's priority is eradication of bovine tuberculosis, and some have challenged whether or not the DNR has the same priority. He discussed the decision to postpone signing the Memorandum of Understanding that would fully implement TB zonal status in Northeast Michigan. Dr. Chaddock will be presenting a full report later in today's meeting.

Director Wyant said the rail crisis that Michigan faced earlier in the year continues to be of concern and greatly impacts agriculture. MDA will continue to be involved in this issue.

Y2K: Dave Charney provided an update on the Y2K preparation. Y2K was a success in relationship to what the state had prepared for and there were no major problems.

Commissioner Maitland suggested that the Commission tour a hog facility prior to completing the site selection and odor control GAAMPs.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS: Dan Wyant

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE RESOLUTIONS HONORING:

- DR. CHARLES CUBBAGE, OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT;
 - CAROL CARLSON, FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION;
 - MARGARET COOKE, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION, AND
 - CHARLES SNYDER, FFA ADVISOR.
- SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Brad Deacon

Brad Deacon, Legislative Liaison, distributed and reviewed the "*January 2000 Legislative Status Report.*" Three legislative priorities for MDA are changes to the State Fair Act, reauthorization of the groundwater program, and changes to the food code. MDA will continue to monitor and be involved in legislation pertaining to Senator McManus' task force on agriculture preservation.

Director Wyant discussed the following items that will likely be requests addressed in the Governor's budget:

- \$340,000 study on establishing an animal diagnostic laboratory at MSU
- conservation district funding increase of \$2 million
- migrant labor housing construction grant increase

- Project GREEN
- Horse Racing

Mr. Deacon also reported that Representative Dale Sheltrown issued a news release questioning the continuation of the quarantine and suggesting that the Governor reconsider the Executive Order which places Northeast Michigan under a TB Quarantine.

UPDATE ON BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS: Dr. H. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian

Dr. H. Michael Chaddock distributed and reviewed the latest maps and information relating to bovine tuberculosis in Michigan. He said that DNR has done a tremendous job of testing over 19,000 animals statewide. There were, until today, three highly suspicious deer found in Antrim, Osceola and Mecosta counties, outside of the corridor. The deer in Antrim County, the one in Crawford County and the one on the Alcona/Iosco County border have been confirmed by DNR as being diagnosed with bovine tuberculosis. This leaves the deer in Osceola and Mecosta counties as being highly suspicious for bovine tuberculosis.

Dr. Chaddock explained that the decision was made that Michigan could not sign the Memorandum of Understanding with USDA with the knowledge of the three deer pending confirmation outside of the area. USDA has indicated it will have a bovine tuberculosis program review for the state of Michigan scheduled the week of February 7, 2000. USDA will send a team of three to four bovine tuberculosis epidemiologists into Michigan to audit our program. Recommendations will be made by this team to Michigan and USDA on what Michigan's status should be. Any change in status will become part of the Federal Register. This change would have implications on producers regarding interstate testing requirements. USDA is ready to publish in the Code of Regulations a proposed new tuberculosis program on new status areas for the states. Michigan will most likely have a change in status to modified-accredited and then USDA will propose a new scheme of status areas where Michigan would fit in the future.

Michigan continues to work under the Governor's Executive Order to eradicate bovine tuberculosis in Michigan. The federal requirements for the modified accredited status for the entire state do not necessarily include any requirements to eradicate bovine tuberculosis. MDA will be meeting with industry to discuss what needs to be done as a state to continue the eradication program; i.e., surveillance programs, etc.

Dr. Chaddock said there is a lot of interest by other states in what Michigan is doing. There will be testing in a 10-mile radius in and around the deer found in Antrim County on all cattle, dairy, beef, bison, goats and captive cervidae. Arrangements also have been made, coordinated through MSU Extension, to hold public meetings in each of the three counties.

Dr. Chaddock believes Michigan should continue to be proud of its program and where it is today because it is evident that the program works. It is disappointing that these deer were found, but that is why surveillance is done and needs to continue.

Director Wyant said discussions will need to continue on statewide testing, surveillance requirements, baiting and feeding requirements, and the economic impact. These discussions will be part of the agenda at the February Commission meeting, and at the joint meeting in March with the Natural Resources Commission, with possible decisions at the April Commission of Agriculture meeting.

UPDATE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE: Dr. Nathan Zauel, Animal Industry Division

Dr. Nathan Zauel of the Animal Industry Division distributed and reviewed the draft "*Michigan Voluntary Johne's Disease Status & Management Programs*," dated December 1999. Dr. Zauel explained that Johne's disease has been a growing concern to U.S. cattle industries. The disease primarily affects cattle, sheep, goats and other domestic, exotic and wild ruminants.

Michigan's Johne's program is intended to provide cattle producers in Michigan with information on the risk of the disease associated with buying cattle. The program contains two elements: The Status Program (herds that have not found any disease infection) and The Management Program (herds identified as infected with the disease.) Both programs are designed to be market-driven, which means the buyers are free to purchase any

cattle for any purpose. There is no requirement for participation, but participation does demonstrate proactive efforts to control the disease and its spread. A Johne's Disease Advisory Board consisting of industry, regulatory and scientific personnel will meet once a year to evaluate the program and report its recommendations to the director.

Commissioner Maitland observed that because another name for the disease is "paratuberculosis," the report's introduction should provide an explanation in order to avoid confusion with testing for bovine tuberculosis.

UPDATE ON RABIES, ENCEPHALOPATHIES, AND THE WEST NILE VIRUS: Dr. Steve Halstead, Animal Industry Division

Dr. Steve Halstead of the Animal Industry Division distributed and reviewed current maps and information relating to Rabies, Encephalopathies, and West Nile Virus. Dr. Halstead said that in the U.S. there are over two million animal bites per year, with about 22,000 of those resulting in expensive post exposure treatment to prevent rabies. In the U.S., since 1981, there have been 37 fatalities attributed to rabies, with the most recent occurring in Michigan in March 1983. In 1999 there were 90 cases of animals testing positive for rabies; i.e., 65 bats, three horses, 21 skunks, and one elk.

Dr. Halstead said that Michigan has more reported Equine Encephalitis cases than other parts of the country due in part to migratory bird pathways, habitat for those birds, and a thriving mosquito population. Every year surveillance is done in Michigan for this disease and the program includes monitoring the mosquito population. MDA also has been working with local veterinarians to monitor horses and wild birds. During 1999 there were six horses confirmed positive for this disease, and there were nine positive wild birds. This disease does affect humans and there have been eight human cases since 1980, with four of those resulting in death.

Dr. Halstead said West Nile Virus has been reported for the first time in the U.S. An outbreak detected in New York City caused seven deaths and over 50 hospitalizations. The last human case was diagnosed on September 16, 1999. (Twenty-three horses on Long Island were confirmed positive.) This virus, similar to Equine Encephalitis, can infect humans, horses and over 60 different species of birds.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION RESOLUTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MICHIGAN WINE INDUSTRY TO MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE: Linda Jones, Program Manager of the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council

Linda Jones, Program Manager of the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council, presented the "*Commission Resolution on the Importance of the Michigan Wine Industry to Michigan Agriculture.*"

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION RESOLUTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MICHIGAN WINE INDUSTRY TO MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE. SECONDED.

MOTION TO AMEND:

COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION BY ADDING THE WORD "FARM" TO THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH, FIRST SENTENCE, TO READ "QUALITY FARM PRODUCTS." SECONDED. THE AMENDED MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary Lee Brandt, representing Carrot Growers of Michigan, distributed and referred to information entitled "*Recent Developments and their impact on Tuberculosis Management in Michigan White-tailed Deer,*" by Jeffrey F. Powers DVM, Michigan Veterinary Medical Association. He also distributed and referred to a paper from concerned Michigan Carrot Growers and Packers entitled "*Why A Ban on Deer Baiting is not Necessary.*"

Director Wyant expressed his appreciation to Mr. Brandt for appearing at today's meeting. MDA will continue to work with the carrot growers on this issue.

APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO REWRITE UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR REGULATIONS: Barb Hensinger, director of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division

Barb Hensinger, director of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division, explained that the Upper Peninsula State Fair Regulations have not been reviewed since 1978. Ms. Hensinger is recommending Commission approval to begin the process of rewriting those regulations. Once the regulations have been reviewed and revised, a draft will be brought before the Commission for approval to proceed.

Director Wyant added that industry will be included in the review process and a public hearing will be held prior to Commission's final review and approval.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING AND REVISING THE UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR REGULATIONS. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF REGULATION 810 "THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS AWARDS, OWNERS AWARDS AND STATE SUPPLEMENTS" AND REGULATION 821 "THOROUGHBRED SIRE STAKE RACES AND AWARDS PROGRAM:" Barb Hensinger and Bill Woodman of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division

Barb Hensinger explained that public hearings have been held on Regulation 810, *"Thoroughbred Breeders Awards, Owners Awards and State Supplements,"* and Regulation 821 *"Thoroughbred Sire Stake Races and Awards Programs."*

Bill Woodman explained that the Commission has previously reviewed both of the regulations presented today and they are unchanged with one exception. Rule 2a of Regulation 810, is a proposal that the mare registration date be moved from January 1 to February 15. Moving the registration date affords the industry an opportunity to attend some major Thoroughbred sales and allows them to meet the mare registration deadline. Mr. Woodman said that the industry has reviewed the regulations.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE REGULATION 810 "THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS AWARDS, OWNERS AWARDS AND STATE SUPPLEMENTS," AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE REGULATION 821 "THOROUGHBRED SIRE STAKE RACES AND AWARDS PROGRAM," AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Janet Perry of Croswell, Michigan, said that she is concerned about the siting GAAMPs that the Commission reviewed today, which deals with animals being raised on less than 40 acres. She is involved with the Michigan Horse Council, which is an equine organization comprised of all breed areas and 4-H trail riders. She said the Council is concerned because it believes these GAAMPs would affect 4-H. She is concerned that the townships will divide land parcels into five acre lots and then not permit livestock on five acres or less. She noted that the townships' zoning rules often differ from township to township.

Chair Stamp said that many of these concerns have been addressed in the passage of Senate Bill 205.

Director Wyant agreed and explained that the issue Ms. Perry described was not brought before the Commission today. He expressed his appreciation for her appearance and for the concern she expressed. He said that Senate Bill 205 strengthens the Right to Farm law. The law states that a local township cannot pass an ordinance that is in conflict with the state's GAAMPs. The siting GAAMPs are in the process of being developed by June 1, 2000.

Ms. Perry also asked when the public hearings were held on Regulations 810 and 821.

Ms. Hensinger replied the hearings were held in August 1998.

* * *

Director Wyant informed the Commission that Michigan Farm Bureau President Jack Laurie has been elected Vice President of the American Farm Bureau. This is good news for Michigan agriculture.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 5:25 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 a.m. on January 14, 2000.

UPDATE ON THE MDA LABORATORY RENOVATION: Tom Whalen, Laboratory Division

Tom Whalen, director of the Laboratory Division, distributed a photograph of the Laboratory and reviewed information about the current renovation of the MDA Geagley Laboratory. The total cost of the project is \$12 million, which will include new boilers, plumbing, and electrical. The renovation will occur in two phases and, when completed, will provide a much safer and more efficient building.

UPDATE ON INSECT AND RODENT CONTROL: Melvin Poplar, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Melvin Poplar of the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division reviewed information about MDA's Insect and Rodent Management Program. The program has existed since the late 1960s and was established as part of the Michigan Department of Public Health's Solid Waste Program, which dealt with the problems of rats at dumps and landfills. The program has provided arthropod, rodent and bird identification and consultative control options on pests of public health importance. In 1996 the program was transferred to the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Since the transfer, the program has continued to offer some of the same services to local health departments, local governing units, and citizens. In addition, the Insect and Rodent Management Program has added to its responsibilities by compiling and publishing an annual *"Pesticide Notification Registry and the Organic Farm Registry."*

Mr. Poplar said that in recent years the program has been involved with the statewide urban rat control program and surveillance activities dealing with Lyme disease and Hantavirus field investigations. Encephalitis and malaria activities in Michigan have driven the program into additional monitoring and prevention planning efforts. Currently the program is successfully coordinating the surveillance efforts of 26 counties in southern Michigan for the presence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and St. Louis Encephalitis activities.

Mr. Poplar reported that MDA has developed *"Standard Operating Procedures on Michigan Arbovirus Emergencies."* Michigan is the only state in the Midwest that has an emergency response plan. There were 26 different entities involved in planning, which included MDA divisions, state health departments, four local health departments, and mosquito control districts from Midland, Tuscola, Bay and Saginaw. Associations such as the Michigan Mosquito Control Association, Michigan Aviation Association, Michigan State University, and industry were also involved. Also MDA has developed 12 educational pamphlets that deal with various insects and pests. All of these pamphlets are available at local health departments, as well as Cooperative Extension offices.

Plum Pox Virus:

Kenneth Rauscher, director of the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, provided an update on Plum Pox Virus. This disease was discovered in Pennsylvania in October 1999. Michigan, as a huge stone fruit producer, could be severely impacted by this virus. Canadian officials have quarantined all U.S. states in terms of shipment of stone fruit nursery stock and fruit tree stock into Canada. USDA continues to negotiate with Canada on shipping protocols. MDA submitted a proposal requesting \$50,000 in funding that will be used to look at diagnostics that will support analysis of fruit tree material going into Canada. There are about 6,000 samples that need to be analyzed to substantiate freedom from Plum Pox. USDA has indicated it will contribute \$25,000 to Michigan to supplement its proposal.

Invasive Species:

Mr. Rauscher reported that the President has signed an Executive Order relative to invasive species, which calls for the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture to address the concerns of exotic species coming into this country. Michigan has a huge import business that operates in our state due to Detroit Metro, Port of Detroit and Port Huron. It has been estimated that 40 percent of the incoming cargo into the U.S. comes into and through Michigan. Michigan is very much at the forefront of an exotic species attack. USDA has responded to Michigan's concern by appointing a point person on the Exotic Species Council for USDA. States have been asked to form state exotic species councils that can communicate to that federal entity. MDA is working with other agencies and industry to establish a council.

Central Plant Board:

The Central Plant Board Annual Meeting will be held on February 7-10, 2000, in Lansing. Michigan is hosting this year's meeting. The Board consists of 13 Midwest states and meets on an annual basis. The Commission was invited to participate in the meeting.

ELECTION OF 2000 OFFICERS

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER STAMP MOVED APPROVAL TO ELECT THE COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE 2000 OFFICERS AS FOLLOWS:

- JIM MAITLAND, CHAIR;
- JORDAN TATTER, VICE-CHAIR;
- SHIRLEY SKOGMAN, SECRETARY.

SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Fursteanau of the Michigan Farm Bureau provided an update on the Farmland and Community Alliance activities. The Alliance has been working on educational programs and opportunities for people in Michigan to learn about farmland preservation and permanent ag conservation.

He said that the 2000 Land Use Leadership Training Program takes 43 individuals from throughout the state who are interested in ag land conservation and growth management issues. It is a 12-month program beginning in late January with indepth training on land use zoning and planning, the legal relationship of zoning to the master plan, message formulation and framing. In March there will be intensive media communications and a two-day workshop. This summer, as part of the leadership training program there will be a Michigan Community Showcase Tour. The tour will host individuals in key policy positions from throughout the state by taking them to Lansing, Grand Rapids and Traverse City. Participants will look at successful examples of community partnerships, land conservation tools and techniques already in place in Michigan, and innovative housing and building, and community growth management designs. The program is not a one-way feed of communication and information, the participants are required to do some community action assignments.

He explained that one assignment will be to conduct a land use tour or hold a workshop. Other examples are writing a letter to the editor, or elevating and establishing relationships with the media. In September a meeting will be held with urban officials throughout the state to talk about the urban issues and how they relate to land use and what we are experiencing throughout the country. Throughout the fall, the participants will engage in an urban/rural exchange in their communities. The program will end at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting with more work on conservation easements, local campaigns and issues related to land use decision-making.

Mr. Fuerstenau distributed brochures on the *"Ultimate Farmland Land Preservation 2000 Tour."* The Commission was invited to participate in the tour to Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey on March 30-April 3, 2000.

He also distributed brochures and discussed the *"The Ultimate Land Use Conference"* scheduled for February

28-29, 2000, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The Commission was invited to participate in the conference.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER STAMP MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION PER DIEM AND TRAVEL TO ATTEND THE FEBRUARY 28-29, 2000, ULTIMATE LAND USE CONFERENCE, AND THE MARCH 30 THROUGH APRIL 3, 2000, ULTIMATE FARMLAND LAND PRESERVATION TOUR. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jim McNutt, former legislator and lobbyist for the Michigan Fairs and Exhibitions Association, discussed the many budget issues facing Michigan fairs. One issue is that much of fair support comes from the General Fund as opposed to the Equine Fund. The rationale behind that decision was to utilize the monies in the Equine Fund for horse racing. The problem is horse racing and tension between pari-mutuel and traditional horse racing at the county fairs. Another issue is the scheduling of races at the county fairs. The county fairs feel that their voice is not being heard and they would like more of an equal chance at scheduling.

Director Wyant said he has had discussions about these issues with the fair leadership.

ADJOURN

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:50 A.M. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ATTACHMENTS:

The following documentation are on file in the office of the Commission of Agriculture and is available upon request:

Attachment A Commission of Agriculture Meeting Minutes - December 10, 1999

Attachment B Draft "Site Selection & Odor Control GAAMPs Process," 1/4/00

Attachment C Draft "Annual Review Process for Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices"

Attachment D Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control, November 1999

Attachment E Commission of Agriculture Resolutions

--Dr. Charles Cubbage, Office of Agriculture Development

--Carol Carson, Finance and Technology Division

--Margaret Cooke, Marketing and Communications Division

--Charles Snyder, FFA Advisor

Attachment F January 2000 Legislative Status Report

Attachment G Maps and Information Relating to Bovine Tuberculosis in Michigan

Attachment H "Michigan Voluntary Johne's Disease Status & Management Programs," dated December 1999

Attachment I Maps/Information Relating to Rabies, Encephalopathies, and West Nile Virus

Attachment J Commission of Agriculture Resolution on the Importance of the Michigan Wine Industry to Michigan Agriculture

Attachment K "Recent Developments and their impact on Tuberculosis Management in Michigan White-tailed Deer," by Jeffrey F. Powers, DVM, Michigan Veterinary Medical Association

Attachment L "Why A Ban on Deer Baiting is not Necessary," from Michigan Carrot Growers and Packers

Attachment M Regulation 810 "Thoroughbred Breeders Awards, Owners Awards and State Supplements"

Attachment N Regulation 821 "Thoroughbred Sire Stake Races and Awards Program"

Attachment O MDA Laboratory Photograph and Renovation Information

Attachment P Information Relating to MDA's Insect and Rodent Management Program

Attachment Q "*Ultimate Farmland Land Preservation 2000 Tour***" brochure**

Attachment R "*The Ultimate Land Use Conference***" brochure**